DOCUMENT RESUME

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ABSTRACT

This self-paced student training module on introduction to the carpentry trade is part of the course, Carpentry Trade, which was developed for Preapprenticeship Phase 1 Training. (A companion instructor's guide is available separately as CE 032 875.) The course is designed to provide students with an orientation to the trade and an opportunity to explore it. The purpose of the module is to provide an introduction to the carpentry trade, including history, trends, working conditions, hiring practices, training, employment opportunities, and wage scale of the carpentry trade. The module may contain some or all of the following: a cover sheet listing module title, goal, and performance indicator; study guide/checklist with directions for module completion; introduction; information sheets providing information and graphics covering the module topic(s); supplementary references; self-assessment; self-assessment answers; post assessment; and post-assessment answers. (YLB)

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ED217240

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING SYSTEMS

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PHASE 1 TRAINING

INTRODUCTION TO THE CARPENTRY TRADE

CE032816

Goal:

The student will be able to identify and briefly describe the history, trends, working conditions, hiring practices, employment outlook and wage scale for the carpentry trade.

Performance Indicators:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the material by successfully completing a Self Assessment and a Post Assessment.

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Information

HISTORY

The craft of carpentry is thousands of years old. Long ago, men began to shape wood into useful objects and to work on improving their protective shelters.

Today carpenters are still responsible for work on the skeleton of a building. Carpenters are concerned with the stability of a structure rather than its appearance.

In the past, when buildings were frequently constructed of timber framework, the carpenter was the principal building worker. Today a carpenter's role has descreased with the increasing use of concrete and steel construction.

There is a new emphasis on factory work (laminated and specially glued framework units can only be made under precision factory conditions), but traditional carpentry methods are still widely used and economical for some projects.

TRENDS

Carpenter skills are so important and versatile that they make up the largest group of building trade workers. Their work can be broadly divided into two categories: structural work, such as floor and roof framing, which is permanently incorporated into the building; and temporary work, which enables masons, bricklayers, etc. to do the finishing work.

In 1978, about 1,250,000 carpenters were employed, of which nearly one out of four was self-employed. Most carpenters work for contractors and homebuilders. Some do work for governmental agencies, utility companies, manufacturing firms, or large organizations.

WORKING CONDITIONS

A carpenter's work sometimes demands prolonged standing, climbing and squatting. Most of the work is outdoors and injuries are common.

Some carpenters change employers every time they complete a construction job. Others alternate between wage employment for contractors and self-employment on small jobs.

HIRING PRACTICES

Employers are looking for applicants with a high school or vocational school education who have taken courses in carpentry, shop, mechanical drawing and general mathematics. Manual dexterity, good physical condition, sense of balance, and ability to work on high structures are all important assets. The ability to solve math problems quickly and correctly, and to work well with others is also helpful.

Apprenticeship programs are the best way to learn carpentry. The programs consist of four years of on-the-job training and 144 hours of related classroom training each year. Applicants generally must be 17 years old and pass local tests designed to measure their aptitude for the trade.

EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK

Job opportunities should be plentiful; there are large numbers of people employed in the field and replacement needs are great. It has been predicted that most of the employment growth will occur in the early 1980s. The number of households built is expected to slow down in the late 1980s, reducing the demand for carpenters.

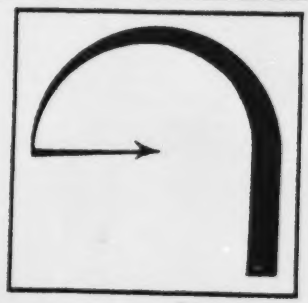
Job openings in the trade are affected by economic conditions each year. Carpenters with all-round training will have more opportunities for employment and promotions than those who know only simple, routine types of carpentry.

WAGE SCALE

Wage rates for construction workers averaged $10.05 an hour in 1978. Hourly earnings for maintenance carpenters ranged from $5 to $9. Annual earnings might not be as high as the hourly wages would indicate because carpenters lose time due to poor weather conditions and occasional unemployment between jobs.

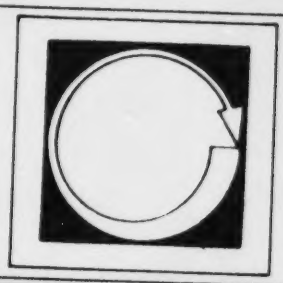
Hourly wages for apprentices are generally 50% of the rate paid to journeymen carpenters. Many carpenters belong to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

Supplementary References



Occupational Outlook Handbook
U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
March, 1980

Self Assessment



In the blanks provided, write a T if the statement is true and F if the statement is false.

1. ____ The art of carpentry is hundreds of years old.

2. ____ Carpenters are the largest group of building trade workers.

3. ____ One out of four carpenters were self-employed in 1978.

4. ____ A carpenter always works for the same employer.

5. ____ It is necessary to take special courses related to carpentry to succeed in the trade.

6. ____ Apprenticeship programs are the best way to learn carpentry.

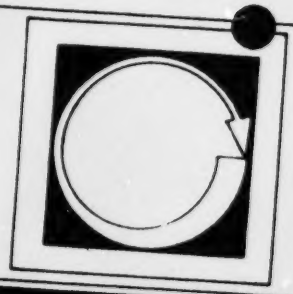
7. ____ Job openings depend on the economic conditions each year.

8. ____ Hourly wages for apprentices are the same as those paid to experienced carpenters.

Self Assessment Answers

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. T
8. F

Post Assessment



Select the word or phrase which correctly answers the question or completes the statement and write its correspoinding letter in the blank space provided.

1. ____ Why has the role of the carpenter diminished today?
   a. due to increased use of concrete and steel construction
   b. there are more carpenters
   c. there is less construction

2. ____ What are the two broad categories of carpentry?
   a. sawing and nailing
   b. roofing and bricklaying
   c. structural and temporary work

3. ____ Which one of these qualities is important to be a carpenter?
   a. good balancer
   b. manual dexterity
   c. short stature

4. ____ Most of the employment growth is predicted for the early part of
   a. 2,000
   b. 1900
   c. 1980

5. ____ Why do carpenters lose time on jobs?
   a. vacations
   b. poor weather, unemployment
   c. unsafe working conditions

6. ____ What were the average hourly wages for construction workers in 1978?

a. $20

b. $15

c. $10.05

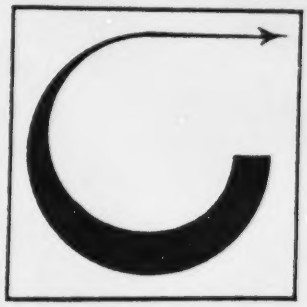
7. ____ What percentage of the hourly wage of experienced carpenters is paid to apprentice carpenters?

a. 75%

b. 50%

c. 100%

Instructor Post Assessment Answers



1. a
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. b
6. c
7. b